

## LITHS TO "INVADE" MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

Lithuanian lore will be in the forefront during the month of December at Chicago's spacious and fabulous Museum of Science and Industry in Jackson Park. Start-nationality Christmas trees will go on display for a ing with the day after Thanksgiving, on Nov. 28th, the whole month, and of course, the Lithuanian tree is the fascinating feature of the display. Along with it, in one of the rooms, there will also be a display of Lithuanian weaving and handicraft with weaving and spinning demonstrations. A collection of aprons, some of which are over 200 years old and belonging to the collection of Mrs. Zauinis of New York, will also be on display. Lithuanian aprons are often masterpieces in the art of weaving. The exhibit will last two weeks and it is free and open to the public.

The Museum display will be preceded by an "arbatėlė" (tea party) on Nov. 22nd at the Alumni Hall of Maria High School, Marquette Rd. and California Ave., where the exhibit will be on temporary display; and Mrs. Bronė Jameikis, charming weaver will deliver a talk on this form of home craft.

On December 11th, Friday afternoon and evening will be "Lithuanian Day" at the Museum. During the afternoon the students from Maria High School will present a program of songs and dances and Christmas traditions, while in the evening, Chicago's popular Lithuanian choir "Dainava" will be featured with songs and dances. All are welcome. Admission free.

### LITHUANIAN

Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!

### LATVIAN

Priesagus Ziemas Svetkus  
Laimīgu Jauno Gadu.

### ESTONIAN

Roomsaid Joulu Puni  
Ja Uut Aastat.

### FINNISH

Hyvaa Joolua  
Onnelliita Uutta Vuotta.

### POLISH

Życze wam wesolych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i szczęśliwego Nowego Roku.

### RUSSIAN

Pozdrevlyayu vas s proznikom  
Rozhdestva Khristom i s Novim Godom.

### UKRAINIAN

Veselekh Vyat y štoslivoho  
Novoho Roku.

### CZECH

Prejeme Vam Veselē Vanoce a šťastný  
Nový Rok.

### SERB-CROATIAN

Šretan Božic i Nova Godina.

### SPANISH

Feliz Navidad y prospero Ano Nuevo.

### ITALIAN

Felicità e salute per Natale e Buon  
Anno.



### FRENCH

Sincere voux de joyeux Noel  
et de bonne et heureuse Année.

### PORTUGUESE

Feliz Natal e prospero Ano Novo.

### GERMAN

Froeliche Weinachten und ein  
Gluekliches Neues Jahr.

### DUTCH

Zalig Kerstfeest en een  
Gelukkig Nieuwjaar.



A VERY

*Merry Christmas*

AND A MOST  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OF YOU

Vyts

### SWEDISH

Glad Jul och ett Gott Nytt Ar.

### NORWEGIAN

Glaedlig Jul og godt Nyt Aar.

### ARMENIAN

Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev  
Pari Gagand.

### GREEK

Kala Christougena kai Eftikhes to  
Neon Ethos.

### GAELIC-IRISH

Nolag Vah Guith  
Bleen Noda Guith.

### HUNGARIAN

Boldog Karacsonyi is Ujevi Unnepeket.

### TAGALOG (FILIPINO)

Maligayang Pasko  
Maligayang Bayong Toan.

### JAPANESE

Shinnen Omedeto  
Kurisumasu Omedeto.

### CHINESE-CANTONESE

Gung Tso Sun Tan' Gung Haw Sun.

### CHINESE-MANDARIN

Kung Ho Hsin Hsi. Ching Chi  
Shen Tan.

### HAWAIIAN

Mele Kalikimaka meka  
Haule Makahiki Hou.

### ARABIC (Lebanon)

'Eed Mbarak  
Kil 'Am Ento Toybeen

## LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

by Josephine Daužvardis

Christmas Eve is one of the most important family holidays to Lithuanians. It is a day of peace, good will, preparation, and intimate family holiday. By tradition, the entire day before Christmas is spent in preparation for the evening: the home is cleaned thoroughly, the kitchen is filled with the tantalizing smell of the evening meal in preparation, and members of the family, fasting all day, scrub in the pirtis (steam bath house) and change into holiday garb.

The "Kucia" or Christmas Eve dinner is the highlight of the day. The table, spread with sweet, fresh hay (as a reminder of Christ's manger), is covered with a snow-white cloth. A crucifix and a plate of holy wafers (plotkelės) are placed in the center of the table. Kucia is commenced after the evening star has appeared in the sky. The head of the family begins the meal with a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings of the year past and with a wish that the family remain in tact during the ensuing year. Hethen breaks and shares the plotkelės with each member of the family, and they, in turn, with each other. The Kucia menu consists of twelve courses (in memory of the twelve Apostles): soup, fish, vegetables, šližikai (small hard biscuits served with poppy seed and honey sauce), kisielius (oatmeal pudding), etc. The meal is leisurely, with conversation centering on the significance of Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child. Dissensions and arguments are avoided, for the atmosphere surrounding the coming of the Christ must be one of absolute peace and good will.

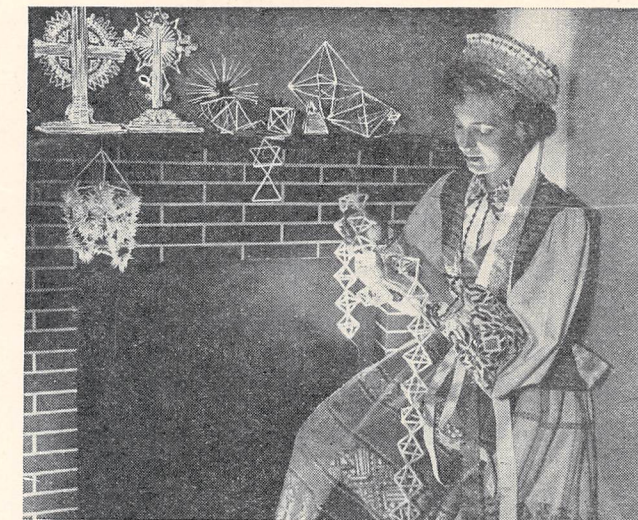
Because of the mystic aspect of the evening, traditions, superstitions, legends, etc. are revived. It is considered the proper time for foretelling the future. Straws are drawn from under the cloth on the table: the length of the straw determines the length of life, or, for the young folk, the length of their single life. Girls carry kindling wood into the house to count: an even number of sticks indicated marriage during the coming year. Molten lead, wax or fat, poured into cold water, foretold the future by the shapes thus formed. The children ran frequently to the well to taste the water to see if it had changed to wine, or ran to the stable to evesdrop on the animals: at one mystic moment on Christmas Eve, the water was supposed to change to wine, and the animals would have the power to converse in the tongue of man. These and many other superstitions and traditions were preserved in Lithuanian families.

In some sections of Lithuania, the Kučia table was not cleared, for it was believed that the Christ Child and Mary might pay the home a visit during the night, or that the souls of deceased members of

the family might return to the family circle.

The hay from under the table-cloth, together with choice bits of food was always brought out to the animals in gratitude for their work and loyalty, and in remembrance of the fact they had guarded and kept warm the Babe of Bethlehem.

The family made all efforts to attend the Piemenėlių Mišios (Shepherds' Mass) at midnight or at dawn.



A pretty Lietuvažė from St. Casimer's (Lith High School) making straw decorations for the Lithuanian Christmas tree. The decorating of the Christmas tree has been entrusted in the hands of Maria (Lith) High School's art department, conducted by the Sisters of St. Casimer, a Lithuanian order of nuns with headquarters in Chicago. Most of the teaching in the Lithuanian parochial schools are conducted by the "Kazimierietes" (Little Sisters of St. Casimer). (Foto Vories Fischer, Museum of Science and Industry).

### THE LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS TREE . . .

Most unusual! No tinsel, no glitter, no blinking multi-colored lights, none of the baubles which we expect to find on Christmas trees. The unorthodox tree is decorated with ornaments made of straw, eggshells, feathers, paper, nutshells!

This is the Lithuanian Christmas Tree, on display this Christmas season, as it has been for the past seven seasons, at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. It is acknowledge to be one of the most outstanding trees of the many nationalities' trees which comprise the "Christmas Around the World" pageant at the Museum. It has been viewed by nearly a million people; it has been sketched, photographed, and copied for use in homes, schools, institutions, and elsewhere; it has received unexpectedly widespread publicity throughout the United States. Most important, it served to revive a "lost" Lithuanian folk art here in the United States.

Gazing at the tree from afar, a delicate, fairy-like fret-work seems to be sketched on the dark-green boughs of the 20 foot evergreen. Closer, the observer is startled to note that that effect is given by